

REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claim rejections set forth in the Office communication dated October 16, 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge indication by the Examiner of allowable subject matter in claims 5 -13 and 17.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 – 4, 14 – 16, and 18 - 20 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,380,995) in view of Kaneda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,798,473 B2), Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,522,377 B2), Sakamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,917,393 B2), Chang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,873,382 B2), Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,046,315 B2), Kiguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,872,586 B2), Wei et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,831,718 B2), Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,762,082 B2), Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,727,964 B2), Ha et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,697,138 B2), Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,717,638 B1), Sakamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,693,697 B2) and Choi (U.S. Patent No. 6,191,835 B1).

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable feature recited in previous claim 13. The Examiner previously indicated that "Claims 5 – 13 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims" (Office action dated October 16, 2006; page 3). Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references.

Dependent Claims 2 – 4 and 18 - 20 depend from allowable claim 1, so are allowable for at least this reason.

Independent Claim 14 is amended to incorporate the allowable features of claim 17. Accordingly, claim 14 is allowable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons that previous claim 17 was allowable. Dependent Claims 15 – 16 depend on allowable Claim 14 so are allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to grant allowance of these claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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